

BUTTERFLY RECORDS OF INTEREST FROM NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

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Abstract

Range extensions or records of interest are given for seven butterfly species from northern Western Australia and three species from northern Queensland.

Western Australia

Neohesperilla senta (Miskin)

This species was known previously from Queensland and the Northern Territory (Common and Waterhouse 1981). A single male taken at Kalumburu in March 1990 is the first record from Western Australia.

Proeidosia polysema (Atkins)

Common and Waterhouse (1981) show a disjunction in the distribution of this species between Daly River, Northern Territory and Exmouth, Western Australia. In March and April 1990 and 1991, numerous specimens were taken near Marble Bar, Kalumburu and Kununurra, establishing its presence across northern Western Australia.

Graphium eurypylus nyctimus (Waterhouse and Lyell)

In April 1991 adults were common in monsoon forests at Sir Frederick Hills, (14°42'S 126°40'E), Vansittart Bay, Cape Bougainville (13°59'S 126°8'E), Mitchell Plateau (14°42'S 125°49'E) and South West Osborne Island in Admiralty Gulf. The species was known previously in Western Australia only from Koolan Island (Common and Waterhouse 1981).

Leptosia nina (Fabricius)

Australian specimens of this species have previously been taken only on the Mitchell Plateau (Common and Waterhouse 1981). In March 1990 it was common in Sir Frederick Hills south east of Kalumburu and in April 1991 at Poompangala Hill (10km west of Kalumburu), Seaflower Bay on Cape Bougainville, South West Osborne Island and Corneille Island in Admiralty Gulf. Adults flew close to the ground in monsoon forests and on South West Osborne Island females were observed ovipositing on small plants of *Capparis sepiaria* L.

Libythea geoffroy genia Waterhouse

In March and April adults were common throughout the Kimberley and adjacent islands wherever *Celtis philippensis* Blanco occurred.

Anthene lycaenoides godeffroyi (Semper)

Previously known from as far west as Daly River, Northern Territory, several specimens taken at Mitchell Plateau and South West Osborne Island establish the presence of this species in Western Australia.

Everes lacturnus australis (Couchman)

This small species was previously known only from eastern Australia and the Northern Territory (Common and Waterhouse 1981). Several adults from Poompangala Hill represent the first record from Western Australia.

Queensland*Telicota mesoptis* Lower

A single male taken on Murray Island in April 1989 is the first record from Torres Strait.

Phyliris diana papuana (Wind and Clench)

An adult male was reared from a larva taken feeding on *Litsea breviumbellata* Allen at the Rocky River (13°50'S 143°27'E). The subspecies was previously known only as far south as Claudie River.

Pithecops dionisius dionisius (Boisduval)

This small species was previously known from Darnley Island, Lockerbie and Iron Range (Hiller and d'Apice 1979). In May 1992 adults were common in rainforest areas at Rocky River.

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References

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